The broadly state goal of enterprise architecture (EA) is to create a common and cohesive vision between business and technology leaders regarding: the emerging technology trends and enterprise business strategies that will drive the architecture; the IT requirements derived from enterprise business strategies; the role and definition of the technical architecture that best enables the business needs of the enterprise; and, the migration plan that will move the enterprise from the current to the future architecture. To this end, the Commonwealth of Virginia has researched and developed the following publications:

Commonwealth of Virginia Enterprise Architecture Common Requirements Vision. October 2000. The Common Requirements Vision documents the business case for the Commonwealth EA initiative and represents the initial step in the evolution of the process model. This document establishes the agreements reached between business and IT leaders regarding:

- The most significant, influencing trends on the enterprise.
- The enterprise business strategies that will drive the EA.
- The information required by the business decision makers to satisfy the enterprise business strategies.
- Implications for application portfolio development.
- Requirements for the technical architecture.

To read the document, visit: http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea/vision.htm

Commonwealth of Virginia Enterprise Architecture Conceptual Architecture. February 2001. The next step in the EA Process is to define a Conceptual Architecture that will serve as a foundational framework for an enterprise-wide architecture. A conceptual architecture is a logically consistent set of principles that:

- Are derived from business requirements.
- Guide the engineering of an organization's information systems and technology infrastructure across the various component architectures.
- Are understood and supported by senior Commonwealth management, State Agencies, Institutions of Higher Learning, and local governments.

- Take into account the "full context" in which the enterprise-wide technical architecture will be applied.

- Enable rapid change in the Commonwealth's business processes and the applications that enable them.

To read the document, visit http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea/eaconcep.htm

Commonwealth of Virginia Middleware Architecture Report: A Middleware Framework for Delivering Business Solutions. May 2001. State agencies today are faced with the challenge of integrating the disparate systems and islands of automation into one enterprise-wide flow of business logic. Often, information needed by knowledge workers is spread throughout various business applications in different departments within agencies or is spread across agencies. Knowledge workers would like to access all the information they need in a transparent and seamless fashion. To accomplish this, programmers must know how to connect information to applications and customers no matter where it resides on the network. A middleware architecture enables agencies to address these connection needs in a consistent and useful manner. Middleware has been described as the software glue that ties applications together across a network. Middleware can allow organizations to share data between systems that do not communicate easily. Middleware is the enabler of application communications in a distributed system and is the tool that improves the overall usability of an environment made up of products from many different vendors on multiple platforms.

To read the document, visit
http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea/documents/EAMdlArch051801.doc

Commonwealth of Virginia Network Architecture Report: A Network Framework for Delivering Business Solutions. May 2001. this document addresses network architecture recommendations for Virginia's agencies. The network architecture is part of Virginia's EA initiative, and was written to assist business and technical leaders in sound decision-making related to networking. The document provides guidance and information on:

- Local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and facilities-related issues.

- Recommendations for strategic deployment of network tools and technologies.

- Glossary of terms.

- Web links.
- White paper on wireless networking.

To read the document, visit
http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea/documents/EANetArch051801.doc

Commonwealth of Virginia Security Architecture Report: A Security Framework for Delivering Business Solutions. May 2001. The Security Architecture is an integral and critical domain within the EA designed specifically to:
- Enable secure communications and the appropriate protection of information resources within the Commonwealth.
- Support the legal information security requirements established by existing Federal and State statutes pertaining to information confidentiality, accessibility, availability, and integrity.
- Support secure, efficient transaction of business and delivery of services.
- Leverage opportunities to obtain IT security synergies and economies of scale.

To read the document, visit
http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea/documents/SecurityArchitecture_Final.doc